ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF

The Bigbee Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Mt. Sterling Baptist Church,

MT. STERLING, CHOCTAW CO., ALA.,

Sept. 9th, 10th, and 11th, 1881.

Officers:

ELD. J. K. RYAN, MODERATOR..... *Yantley Creek, Ala.*
ELD. J. D. COOK, CLERK..... *Pushmataha, Ala.*
DEACON I. C. BROWN, TREASURER,.... *Livingston, Ala.*

WHIG AND OBSERVER JOB OFFICE
EUTAW, ALA.
1881.

Order of Business.

1—*Reading of Letters and Enrolling of Delegates.*

2—*Election of Officers.*

3—*Appointment of Committee on Preaching.*

4—*Admission of New Churches.*

5—*Correspondence from Other Bodies.*

6—*Invitation of Ministers to Seats.*

7—*Report of Standing Committees.*

8—*Appointment of Standing Committees—to report at Next Session.*

9—*Report of Committees of Present Session.*

10—*Motions and Resolutions.*

11—*Miscellaneous Business.*

12—*Appointment of Time and Place for Next Session.*

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1881.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

OF THE

BIGBEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.
H. R. AUTREY,	Livingston,	Sumter.
A. E. BEAVERS,	Cuba Station,	Sumter.
C. C. BLOODSWORTH,	York Station,	Sumter.
J. D. COOK,	Pushmataha,	Choctaw.
F. A. FREEMAN,	Butler,	Choctaw.
W. F. POND,	Kinterbish,	Sumter.
J. K. RYAN,	Yantley Creek,	Choctaw.
A. R. SCARBOROUGH,	Livingston,	Sumter.
C. C. VAUGHAN,	Cuba Station,	Sumter.
J. E. WHITE,	Clinton,	Greene.
N. B. WILLIAMS,	Livingston,	Sumter.
T. B. WOODWARD,	Gaston,	Sumter.

LICENSED MINISTERS OF THE BIGBEE ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.
L. L. BELSHER,	Butler,	Choctaw.
A. P. EVANS,	Rosser,	Sumter.
ISAAC WHITE,	Clinton,	Greene.

MINUTES.

MT. STERLING BAPTIST CHURCH, }
MT. STERLING, ALA., Sept. 9th, 1881. }

The Bigbee Baptist Association convened in her Twenty-ninth Annual Session with Mt. Sterling Baptist Church, at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1881.

In the absence of the appointee, Elder L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., was requested to preach the Introductory Sermon. Text, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matt. 11: 28.

On motion, adjourned to 2½ p. m. Benediction by Dr. Gwaltney.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Association was called to order at the appointed hour by the Moderator, and the 84th Psalm was read. Song, "I love thy kingdom Lord," Prayer by Eld. J. E. White.

The Moderator made appropriate remarks relative to the time of the last meeting of the Association (1861) in Mt. Sterling and the changes in her members, the citizens of Mt. Sterling, &c.

The pastor of the church extended a hearty welcome to the delegates and visiting brethren and sisters.

In response to the call for representation by the Moderator, the letters from the churches were delivered, and Elder N. B. Williams and Col. J. T. Murfee, LL. D., requested to read them.

The names of the following brethren were enrolled messengers from the churches:

Beaulah—Elder W. F. Pond and Bro. W. P. Chambers.

Center—Bro. T. F. Seale. No letters.

Christian Valley—Brethren William Rushing and J. H. Lee.

Clinton—Elder J. E. White.

Concord—Brethren J. R. Phillips, D. W. Brock and Sam'l J. Phillips.

Cuba—Elder A. E. Beavers and Brethren R. A. Clay, W. H. Lewis and B. F. Watson.

Demopolis—Not represented.

Eutaw—Not represented.

Fellowship—Brother B. T. Hart.

Friendship—Not represented.

Gainesville—Letter.

Hickory Hill—Elder T. B. Woodward and Brother J. P. Woolf.

Hopewell, Sumter Co.—Brethren Jacob Spidel, L. P. Harper and J. R. Speed.

Hopewell, Choctaw Co.—Brethren G. L. Scarborough, J. W. Whitled and C. J. Williams.

Livingston—Elder N. B. Williams and Brethren J. G. Harris, I. C. Brown and Jno. J. Altman.

Mt. Hermon—Bro. B. F. Brown.

Mt. Moriah—Brethren I. R. McElroy, Jr., and T. E. Woolf.

Mt. Sterling—Brethren J. B. Turner and W. I. Turnbow.

New Prospect—Elder A. R. Scarborough.

Rehoboth—Elders F. A. Freeman, L. L. Belsher, J. D. Cook and Bro. A. J. Gray.

Siloam—Brethren G. W. Green and James Stalling.

Stonewall—Not represented.

Sumterville—Bro. E. R. B. Thomas.

York—Bro. R. B. Hightower.

Zion—Elders J. K. Ryan, A. P. Evans and Brethren Hubert Culpepper and T. M. Brunson.

The Association then went into a permanent organization by the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the re-election of the former officers: Eld. J. K. Ryan, Moderator; Eld. J. D. Cook, Clerk; Deacon I. C. Brown, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were called for. None presented.

Received correspondence as follows:

Choctaw Association: Minute.

Bethel Association: Minute and Elders A. J. Hearn, W. DeWitt, R. M. Hunter and Bro. J. R. Cowan.

Liberty (West) Association: Elder S. O. Y. Ray and Bro. R. B. Kennedy.

Bethlehem Association: Bro. G. D. Webb.

Calvary Church, Meridian, Miss.: Eld. J. C. Foster.

Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board: Eld. T. M. Bailey.

Pres. Judson Institute: Eld. L. R. Gwaltney, D. D.

Pres. Howard College: Col. J. T. Murfee, LL. D.

Second Vice Pres. of Alabama Baptist State Convention: Brother J. G. Harris.

On motion, all visiting Baptist ministers were invited to seats with us, and participate in our deliberations.

The Moderator appointed the Pastor of Mt. Sterling Church and Brethren W. J. Turnbow, J. B. Turner, J. B. Marshal and J. R. Phillips as Committee on Preaching.

The Moderator appointed the following

SPECIAL COMMITTES:

On Finance—Brethren T. M. Brunson, D. W. Brock, and G. W. Green.

On Correspondence—Brethren W. P. Chambers, A. J. Gray and B. F. Watson.

On Nominations—Brethren B. F. Brown, W. H. Lewis, and B. T. Hart.

On motion, a Committee was appointed to report on General Education, during this session. Committee as follows: Elder N. B. Williams, Elder L. L. Belsher and Brethren J. W. Whitted and Hubert Culpeper.

On motion, the report on Indigent and Infirm Ministers was submitted and discussed by Bro. J. G. Harris and Elder T. M. Bailey; after which a collection was taken up for the benefit of Elder J. W. P. Brown, M. D., of Deatsville, Ala. Amt. $13:05. The report was then amended and adopted. (Appendix A.)

A circular was received from the Ala. Baptist State

Mission Board, and on motion, a Committee of five was appointed to apportion the amounts for each Church to contribute. Committee as follows: Brethren I. C. Brown, A. J. Gray, W. H. Lewis, Elder A. R. Scarborough and Bro. J. B. Turner.

On motion, a Committee of three was appointed to report an order of business, to-night.

On motion, the report on Sabbath Schools was made the order of business for to-night at 7½.

On motion, Received Correspondence; Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., and representative of the Ala. Central Female College, Elder J. M. Phillips.

On motion, adjourned to 7½ p. m. Song, "There is a fountain filled with blood." Prayer by Elder W. H. DeWitt.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The Association opened by singing, and prayer by Elder A. R. Scarborough.

The report on Sabbath Schools being the order for the hour, was submitted and discussed by Bro. J. G. Harris, Elder T. M. Bailey, and Elder L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., then adopted. (Appendix B.)

The Committee appointed to draft an Order of Business made a verbal report.

On motion, adjourned to 9 a. m., Saturday. Prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey.

SATURDAY MORNING, September 10th, 1881.

The Association opened by singing and prayer by Elder S. O. Y. Ray.

The report on Correspondence was submitted and adopted without discussion. (Appendix C.)

The report on Bible and Publication Cause was submitted and discussed by Elder W. F. Pond, Elder T. M. Bailey, Bro. J. G. Harris and Elder J. M. Phillips, then adopted. (Appendix D.)

The report on Ministerial Education was submitted; also the report on General Education, and discussion ensued as follows: Col. J. T. Murfee, LL. D. and Elder L. R. Gwaltney, D. D.

On motion, adjourned to 2½ p. m. Prayer by Elder N. B. Williams.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The Association re-assembled at the appointed hour, and opened by singing, "Jesus, I love thy charming name." Prayer by Elder A. E. Beavers.

On motion, the regular order of business was postponed, and the subjects of Ministerial and General Education were taken up. Addresses ensued by Elders J. M. Phillips and A. E. Beavers.

On motion, a Committee of three was appointed to report to-night the expediency of adopting a beneficiary to Howard College, and some plan to raise means to defray his expenses in college. Committee: Brethren L. C. Brown, J. G. Harris and R. A. Clay.

On motion, the reports were laid on the table.

The report on Missions was submitted; also the report on State Missions, and discussion followed by Elders L. R. Gwaltney, N. B. Williams, J. M. Phillips and T. M. Bailey.

The Committee on Preaching reported as follows:

9½ a. m. Sunday, Sabbath School Mass Meeting at Baptist Church. Opening address by Elder T. M. Bailey. 11 a. m., preaching at Baptist Church by Elder J. E. White. Same hour at M. E. Church, Elder L. R. Gwaltney, D. D. 3 p. m., at M. E. Church Elder J. M. Phillips. 7½ p. m., at Baptist Church, Elder N. B. Williams.

On motion, adjourned to 7½ p. m. Prayer by Elder J. M. Phillips.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Opened by singing "Come, thou fount of every blessing." Prayer by Elder J. E. White.

On motion, speeches were limited to ten minutes.

The subject of Missions was taken up again, and discussion ensued by Elders N. B. Williams, S. O. Y. Ray, T. M. Bailey, Bro. J. G. Harris, Elders J. E. White and A. R. Scarborough. The two reports on Missions were then adopted. (Appendices E. and F.)

The committee to apportion the amounts each church is requested to raise for the different objects fostered by the Ala. Baptist State Mission Board, submitted their report, and after discussion by Elder T. M. Bailey, it was adopted. (Appendix G.)

On motion, the reports on Ministerial Education and General Education were taken from the table and adopted without further discussion. (Appendices H. and I.)

The Committee to report on a beneficiary to Howard College submitted their report, and discussion ensued as follows: Elder N. B. Williams, Bro. J. G. Harris and Elder J. E. White. A substitute was offered instead of the report which was accepted by the chairman of the committee, and adopted as follows:

It is moved that a committee of three be appointed to collect sufficient funds from the different churches in this Association to enable brethren, selected by a committee appointed for the purpose, who wish aid towards Ministerial Education, to attend Howard College, or some other institution for one year.

Committee appointed as follows: Brethren Jno. J. Altman, W. H. Lewis and R. A. Clay.

The Committee on Nominations reported, and after discussion by Elder W. F. Pond, Bro. G. W. Green and others adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Nominations respectfully suggest that this Association hold its next annual meeting with the York Church, Sumter county, Ala., convening on Friday, at 11 a. m., before the second Sabbath in September, 1882. Elder J. D. Cook to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder T. B. Woodward to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath. Respectfully submitted,

B. F. BROWN, Chairman.

The Treasurer submitted his report, which was adopted. (Appendix J.)

The report on Finance was submitted, and after an addition was adopted. (Appendix K.)

The following brethren were appointed delegates to the Ala. Baptist State Convention, to convene with the Baptist Church at Huntsville, Ala., on Wednesday before the third Sabbath in July, 1882: Elders J. K.

Ryan, J. E. White, W. F. Pond, N. B. Williams, A. R. Scarborough, J. D. Cook, L. L. Belsher, A. E. Beavers, and C. C. Vaughan; Brethren C. D. Woodruff, P. B. Brown, J. G. Harris, J. J. Altman, J. B. Turner, W. H. Lewis, D. W. Brock, I. C. Brown, M. W. Hand and Jno. Scears.

The following were appointed as

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Inter-Associational Correspondence—Brother John G. Harris.

Sabbath Schools—Elder J. D. Cook, Bro. C. D. Woodruff and Elder A. P. Evans.

Missions—Brethren W. P. Chambers, J. E. Vaughan and B. F. Watson.

State Missions—Elder N. B. Williams and Brethren W. H. Lewis and T. M. Brunson.

Ministerial Education—Brethren Jno. J. Altman, J. B Marshall and Elder A. R. Scarborough.

Bible and Publication Cause—Elder C. C. Vaughan and Brethren W. H. Lewis and B. T. Hart.

Indigent and Infirm Ministers—Bro. J. G. Harris.

The following resolution offered by Bro. R. A. Clay was adopted :

Resolved, That each church in this Association hereafter is authorized to send its full pro rata of delegates from its lay-membership to the Association, and all the ministers by virtue of their offices may be sent as delegates in addition thereto.

Elder W. F. Pond offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the members composing this body do hereby return heart-felt thanks to the citizens of Mt. Sterling and community for the kind hospitality they have received at their hands during their stay amongst them ; and, also, do we return fraternal thanks to our Methodist Brethren for the use of their church.

The following parting hymn was sung :

"Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel's feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?" &c.

During the singing the delegates and brethren extended to each other the parting hand, after which, closing prayer by Elder L. R. Gwaltney, D. D. The Association then adjourned to meet with the York Baptist Church on Friday, at 11 o'clock, A. M., before the second Sabbath in September, 1882.

J. K. RYAN, Moderator.

J. D. COOK, Clerk.

SUNDAY, Sept. 11, 1881.

Preaching according to the appointment of the Committee. After services at 11 o'clock, a. m., collections were taken up, amounting to $23.85.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

Your committee are cheered by the reports that come in from all parts of the State in regard to this important benevolent enterprise. While the plan has not been fully perfected, yet it has so far progressed as to warrant the belief that it will in the near future become so completed as to secure the benefits contemplated.

Each Association, composing our State Convention, has expressed its approval of the enterprise, and whenever an object of this benevolence makes application for help, we are assured that our denomination will respond most cheerfully and liberally.

By the assembling of the next State Convention, every beneficiary will be reported by name, giving his or her residence, age, and the causes that have brought them under this charity as beneficiaries. In this way, the denomination will then know who are to be cared for, and the probable amount of money necessary to satisfy their wants.

At present your committee know of none within the bounds of the Bigbee Association who are the objects of our care and support.

Resolved, That this Association recommend to the churches to take up collections for the support of Aged and Infirm Ministers and their families; and send such collections to the Committee appointed by the Ala. Baptist State Convention to receive such funds.

Resolved, Also, that the association suggest that brethren who know of those referred to above, as being in want, report such names to the above said committee.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. HARRIS, Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Sunday School accomplishes three important objects:

1st. It moulds the character for good in the plastic period of childhood.

2nd. It gives an open and prominent recognition of our belief in, and reverence for the Word of God.

3rd. It utilizes the immense and otherwise unused forces of the lay-membership of the church.

The celebration of the "Raikes Centenary" last year marks the age of the modern Sunday School movement. The end at first attempted was the teaching of poor and neglected children, who had no other opportunity of learning. It has now widened and deepened 'till its consequences and capabilities are incalculable. But its primary object is still its noblest. The children who most need the Sunday School are the last to seek its benefits. They are hard to reach. It should be our earnest effort to seek them out, and induce them to place themselves under its salutary influence.

Five thousand two hundred and twenty Sunday School Conventions, Institutes, and Assemblies took place in America last year—an average of one hundred a week, or fourteen a day. This almost incredible activity shows the growing importance of the Sunday School work. This movement is felt among Baptists as among other Christians. But all our people are not engaged as they should be. There are about two and a quarter million Baptists in the United States, and about half that number of Sunday School scholars. Rightly the Sunday School should be twice as large as the church, for the Sunday School should embrace all the church members and their children. How can we induce the whole church to engage earnestly in Sunday School work? A satisfactory, practical answer to this question would meet the most urgent demand of our churches.

Your committee are pleased to report: Number of

Sunday Schools 11; Officers and teachers 13; Scholars 411.

We would urgently recommend a more diligent and earnest work in all our churches in behalf of the Sunday School cause. Respectfully submitted,

I. C. BROWN, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Committee are pleased to report that the following Associations and other bodies of Baptists are represented in our body at its present session: The Bethel, the West Liberty, the Choctaw and the Bethlehem Associations; the State Mission Board, the State Convention, Judson Female Institute, Howard College, Calvary Baptist Church, and the Tuscaloosa Baptist Church.

We would therefore thank, in behalf of the Association, these brethren for their presence and assistance, and commend a broader and more intimate fraternal intercourse between Baptist organizations.

We would also recommend, as your committee did last year, that any member of this body visiting other bodies of Baptists, be regarded as our messengers to those bodies. Respectfully submitted,

W. P. CHAMBERS, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.

BIBLE AND PUBLICATION CAUSE.

The Bible of the Christians is, without exception, the most remarkable work now in existence. In the libraries of the learned, there are frequently seen books of an extraordinary antiquity, and curious and interesting from the nature of their contents; but none approach the Bible, taken in its complete sense, in point of age, while certainly no production, whatever, has any pretension to rival it in the dignity of composition, or the important nature of the subjects treated of in its pages.

The word Bible is of Greek origin, and, in signifying simply The Book, is expressive of its superiority over all other literary productions. The origin and nature of this every way singular work, how it was preserved during the most remote ages, and how it became known to the modern world in its present shape, form a highly interesting chapter of literary history. The Bible comprehends the entire foundation of the religious belief of the Jews and Christians, and is divided into two distinct portions, entitled the Old and New Testaments, the former being that which is esteemed by the Jewish nation, but both being essential in forming the faith of the christian.

The Bible is a marvelous book and without a rival. All the libraries of theology, philosophy, history, antiquities, poetry, law, and policy would not furnish material enough for so rich a treasure of the choicest gems of human genius, wisdom, and experience. It embraces works of about forty authors, representing the extremes of society, from the throne of the king to the boat of the fisherman; it was written during a long period of sixteen centuries, on the banks of the Nile, in the desert of Arabia, in the land of promise, in Asia Minor, in classical Greece, and in imperial Rome; it commences with the creation and ends with the final glorification, after describing all the intervening stages in the revelation of God and the spiritual development of man; it uses all forms of literary composition, it rises to the highest heights, and descends to the lowest depths of humanity; it measures all states and conditions of life; it is acquainted with every grief and every woe; it touches every chord of sympathy; it contains the spiritual biography of every human heart; it is suited to every class of society, and can be read with the same interest and profit by the king and the beggar, by the philosopher and the child; it is as universal as the race, and reaches beyond the limits of time into the boundless regions of eternity.

The use of written characters to be seen by the eye, as a method of communicating thought, is well nigh, if not quite as ancient as that of articulate sounds to be

heard by the ear; and for the conveyance of religious truth has equally the divine sanction. When the Holy Sovereign of our world would make a revelation of His law to our race, He, himself, wrote it upon tables of stone—that it might be read and preserved. The prophets and apostles also, whom he inspired to speak, He, in like manner, inspired to record what He made known to them. "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Perhaps no event has so interested the people generly in regard to the Word of God as the revision of the New Testament, which was completed last May. As Baptists, though we had but one representative on the American Committee, we regard the New Revision as a step in the right direction. We of all others most desire a literal translation of the Word of God. We would also state that the American Baptist Publication Society have printed an edition embracing the suggestions of the American Committee of Revision.

In reference to Denominational Literature we would only say this much: We would always place the *Alabama Baptist* FIRST to the Baptists of the State. It is simply every one's *duty* to take it and read it, and that Baptist who fails to do this must expect to be wofully ignorant of our work as christians.

Outside of the State are many able and influential papers, which we will not specify in this report.

For Sunday Schools we regard Lesson Helps of the American Baptist Publication Society as preferable to all others in style and price. We would state, however, that we have a high appreciation of *Kind Words* and would recommend it to any Sunday School as worthy of its support.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. POND, Chairman.

APPENDIX E.

MISSIONS.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Missions submit the following as their report:

The missionary work of our denomination, as now conducted, is divided into three departments. 1st. Work in Foreign lands. 2nd. Work in the United States. 3rd. Work in States and Associations.

The Foreign Mission work is in the hands of the Foreign Mission Board, located at Richmond, Va.; Dr. J. L. M. Curry, President, and Dr. H. A. Tupper, Corresponding Secretary. The Home Mission Work is conducted by the Home Mission Board, located at Marion, Ala.; Dr. E. T. Winkler, President, and Dr. W. H. McIntosh, Corresponding Secretary. Our State Mission work is managed by the State Mission Board, at Selma, of which W. C. Ward is President and T. M. Bailey, Corresponding Secretary. As the operations of the last named Board will form the subject of another report, we omit further mention of its work.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Realizing that all mankind are brethren, and that every individual has an immortal soul capable of enjoying the bliss of heaven, or suffering the torments of hell, your commmittee feel powerfully impressed with the duty of christians to send the gospel of salvation to the lost millions of the heathen world. Much has already been done in this direction, but there is vastly more to do. Eighty years ago there were, in all heathen lands, about 50,000 converts. Now there are 1,650,000.—Then there were only 50 translations of the Bible, and 5,000,000 copies in circulation. Now there are 226 translations, and nearly 150,000,000 copies in circulation.

We can only glance at what is now being done by our own Mission Boards.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The receipts of this Board, last year, from all sources, were $55,820 84, which is less than 5 cents per member from the Baptists of the South. South Carolina contributed most largely to this amount, her contribution being over $6,000. Our own State contributed but little over $2,000, which is about 2¼ cents per

member. We have Missionaries stationed as follows:

In Mexico, where there are six or eight Baptist churches, with some 200 members, our Missionary, J. O. Westrup, was murdered last winter. His brother, T. M. Westrup is still there, and W. M. Flournoy has been appointed to that field. In Brazil we have two churches with 44 members. Our laborers there are E. H. Quillin, W. B. Bagby and Mrs. A. L. Bagby.— In Italy we have about 175 members, 26 of whom were baptized last year. Our missionaries there are, G. B. Taylor, Mrs. Taylor, J. H. Eager and Mrs. Eager and nine native preachers. These are all Roman Catholic countries, where it is almost as difficult to reach the hearts of the people as it is in pagan lands, where the name of Jesus was never heard.

In Africa are three chuches with 92 members, of whom 22 were baptized last year. Our laborers there are, W. J. David, Mrs. David, Moses L. Stone and S. L. Milton. S. Cosby, who recently died, was also a missionary of our Board.

In China we have 543 members, of whom 72 were baptized last year. Our laborers in that vast empire, comprising nearly one-third of the population of the globe, are: At Tung Chow, T. F. Crawford, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. S. J. Holmes and Miss Lottie Moore, and one native pastor. At Shanghai, M. T. Yates, Mrs. Yates, two native pastors, three assistants and one Bible woman. At Canton, R. H. Graves, Mrs. Graves, Miss Lula Whilden, E. Z. Simmons, Mrs. Simmons, Miss Sallie Stein, one native pastor, and 11 assistants and Bible women. J. P. McCullough has recently been appointed to that field, and will probably sail with Dr. Graves when he returns to that country.

It has been suggested that a special effort for Foreign Missions be made on the 2nd Lord's day in next month, and we therefore recommend that in those churches which have no system of contributing, that collections be taken up for Foreign Missions at their regular meetings in October, and that Pastors are requested to inform themselves so that they may present the matter intelligibly to their congregations.

In view of the importance of thoroughly enlisting our sisters in the work of sending the gospel to the degraded women of heathen lands, we strongly recommend the formation of "Woman's Missionary Societies" in every church, and that they, at once, enter into correspondence with the recently appointed Central Committee, located at Pleasant Hill, Dallas county, Ala., of which Mrs. E. J. Forrester is chairman. We would also respectfully suggest the propriety of a Standing Committee to report upon this work at your annual sessions. May the Spirit of Christ move us, who have the gospel, to an appreciation of our duty to those who are lost.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board received last year $20,942.45. 34 laborers were employed, who performed 1,208 week's service; preached 3,316 sermons; supplied 59 churches and 48 preaching stations; baptized 119; 59 Baptist Sunday Schools with 2,649 pupils were organized; 108 Bibles and Testaments distributed, and the missionaries traveled 54,669 miles. The recent action of this Board in turning over all its work in States where there are State Mission Boards, to the State Boards, we regard as an eminently wise and proper step. Perhaps the most important field now occupied by that Board is San Francisco, Cal. Among the Chinese in that city, Dr. J. B Hartwell is our missionary. He has a small church and the foundations of a solid work are being laid. The urgent need of a lady assistant has at last been met in the recent appointment of that devoted sister, Mrs. Jane Lowery Sanford, of Miss., to that field.

But there is another field that appeals to us with even more force than this. We allude to New Orleans. That city contains nearly a quarter of a million of inhabitants, and is destined, at no distant day, to become perhaps second to no city on the American continent. We have there only two Baptist churches, one of which is now without a pastor, and the other is supported by the State Mission Board of Miss. The Home Mission Board is very desirous of sending at least two laborers

to that field, and appeals are being made for means to send these men to that Roman Catholic city. Shall they be made in vain? To aid these two Boards our Association is asked to contribute $50 each. Let us not be found remiss in our duty.

Submitted in christian love,

L. L. BELSHER,
W. P. CHAMBERS, } Committee.

APPENDIX F.

STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee would congratulate the Baptists of this Association, and of Alabama, upon the great success with which our labors in the cause of State Missions have met.

Upon comparing the reports made on this subject for the last four years, we find that the contributions for State Missions have been gradually increasing, and in strict proportion to the increased means, the work has increased. We find that the spirit of Missions now pervades many localities and many hearts that a short time ago were as cold on that subject as the frozen rocks of Lapland. Many churches, many brethren, yea, and many who are not members of any church, are giving of their means to support the gospel.—Many localities that were reported two years ago as being destitute of religious services, now have efficient preaching and are helping to send the good Word elsewhere. This change is too evident to need proof.—But as much as has been already done, there yet remains much to do. There are many places that need our attention. Many people there are, who would gladly receive the gospel if they had the means. But if the "Spirit of Missions" continues to grow as it has done for the last few years, it will not be long 'till every community, however poor, will have the "Gospel preached to them." But until this happy period shall have been reached, State Missions will have work to do. We trust that there is not a Baptist in the State of Ala-

bama who will rest contented until this has been accomplished.

Five years ago, the number of Associations in the State engaged in co-operative State Mission work, was eleven. Now there are thirty-five Associations working together through the State Mission Board, and they keep dropping into line. We think that every Baptist in the State, who is in sympathy with this good cause, should consider well what it is that has brought about this happy change. Five years ago, the amount of contributions passing through the hands of the State Board, was between two and three thousand dollars in one year; while during the conventional year, ending July 1st, 1881, the Board received and disbursed nearly $14,000, besides a large amount contributed that did not pass through the hands of the Board.

Your Committee are decidedly of the opinion that this spirit of giving is not so much attributable to an increased ability, as to an increased willingness to give, brought about by the spreading of the Gospel to the good people of our beloved old State.

During the last Associational year, this Association contributed for all benevolent purposes $580.25, for which, we dare say, no one feels poorer. For the ensuing year the Board asks us to give $454. Your Committee would suggest that a Committee be appointed to distribute the amount asked for among the churches of the Association, with the request that the amount be raised, if possible, and forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, Marion, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. DAVISON, Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

AMOUNTS THE CHURCHES ARE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE.

Your Committee appointed to apportion the amount asked for by the State Board, among the churches composing the Bigbee Association, beg leave to report and

recommend to the churches the following amounts to be raised by the next Association:

CHURCHES.	State Missions.....	Home Missions...	Foreign Missions	Ministerial Education.....	Evangelization of Colored People...	Colportage.....	Total.....
Beulah	$7 00	1 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	14 00
Center	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	6 00
Christian Valley	5 00	2 00	2 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	14 00
Clinton	10 00	3 00	3 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	22 50
Concord	10 00	3 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	19 00
Cuba	10 00	4 00	5 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	25 50
Demopolis	6 00	2 00	1 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	13 00
Eutaw	5 00	2 00	2 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	14 00
Fellowship	5 00	2 00	1 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	13 00
Friendship	5 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	13 00
Gainesville	30 00	3 00	5 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	44 50
Hickory Hill	5 00	1 00	1 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	11 00
Hopewell, Sumter County	5 00	1 00	1 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	11 00
Hopewell, Choctaw County	6 00	1 00	2 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	14 00
Livingston	30 00	3 00	4 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	43 50
Mt. Hermon	5 00	——	1 00	3 00	1 00	1 50	11 50
Mt. Moriah	5 00	1 00	1 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	12 00
Mt. Sterling	8 00	1 00	1 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	14 00
New Prospect	5 00	2 00	1 00	2 00	1 00	1 00	12 00
Rehoboth	15 00	2 00	1 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	24 50
Siloam	5 00	2 00	2 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	15 50
Stonewall	10 00	2 00	2 00	5 00	1 00	1 00	21 00
Sumterville	15 00	3 00	2 00	4 00	1 00	1 00	26 00
York	5 00	3 00	2 00	4 00	1 00	1 50	16 50
Zion	15 00	3 00	2 00	4 00	1 00	1 00	26 00
Total	$228 00	50 00	50 00	75 00	25 00	29 00	457 00

Respectfully submitted,

I. C. BROWN, Chairman.

APPENDIX H.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

It is useless to say to this intelligent body that an education is necessary to the minister. We do not hold to the idea that an education makes a preacher, but we are surrounded on every side with abundant testimony, that it is of incalculable advantage in aiding him in studying the Word of God, and teaching it to others. When the harvest is great and the laborers are few,

who would think of sending the laborer to toil for the Master with a dull scythe? As the grind-stone is to the ax, as the sharp sickle is to the wheat, so is education to the gospel minister. What a trained and skillful general is to an army, so is the minister to the people; he must instruct and lead. Brethren, look around you and think, *but for one moment think*—think what our educated ministry is accomplishing, and can accomplish; and then think of the little in comparison that our uneducated ministry can do in the same field.

Leaving you to these reflections, your Committee would respectfully submit this report.

A. E. BEAVERS, Chairman.

APPENDIX I.

General Education.

Your Committee on General Education beg leave to report:

Education as the etymology of the word imports, is the leading out the powers of the mind; or, in other words, is mental training. It is the result of contact with men and things. It comes from the attrition of ideas—from holding converse with the thoughtful living—from the possession of the results of the well directed energies of the mighty dead. It is a matter of observation, of patient study, of sober reflection.

This is so whether the training have reference to the planing of wood, the hammering of iron, the sale of merchandise, or the study of books; whether it is obtained by the independent investigations of the individual himself, or is consequent upon the training of the schools.

Now it will surely be admitted by all who, in any way, have charge of the young, that it is a duty devolving upon them, in some way, to see to the proper training of those over whom Providence has placed

them, and who are in time to take upon themselves a share of the world's work. It will hardly be denied, moreover, that no matter what trade, or art, or profession the young may be fitted and intended by those having them in charge to occupy, that the judicious education in books is a great gain. Greater breadth and depth of thought is thus obtained, and greater efficiency in the special department selected for the life's energies comes along with it. A higher social position is also gained, and a chance for the honors and emoluments of the world is secured to the deserving. Especially is this true in Republican America, where the highest social and political gifts of the nation are open to all classes.

It will also commend itself to the thoughtful mind, that the education of the young should be committed to those having experience in the business—to those who know how to train the mind to think, and who know best the process of investigating truth.

Our schools and colleges, in the main, have just such men in charge, and should in consequence have their halls of instruction thronged by the youth of the land.

In offering valuable aid in this direction the Baptists are behind none others in the State. "Howard College," "Judson Female Institute," and the "Alabama Central Female College" have richly earned the confidence of the people by the fruits of their labors. Able men and accomplished women are scattered over this State and other States, whose place in society is due, in a large measure, to training received in these Institutions.

It is a work of supererrogation for your Committee to recommend, all things being equal, that Baptists patronize their own institutions; and that Baptists in Alabama patronize their own institutions in Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

N. B. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

APPENDIX J.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

I. C. BROWN, Treasurer,

In account with Bigbee Association.

1880.	Dr.	
Sept. 12.	To amount received of Finance Committee	$514 60
1880.	Cr.	
Sept. 12.	By amount paid Rev. T. M. Bailey, Cor. Sec'y, by order of Association (cash and vouchers) $464 85	
Sept. 12.	By amount paid Rev. J. D. Cook, Clerk,	49 75—$514 60

Respectfully submitted,

I. C. BROWN, Treasurer.

APEPNDIX K.

FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report:

Amount received for State Missions	$163 45
" " " Home "	49 25
" " " Foreign "	51 07
" " " S. B. Theo. Seminary	30 21
" " " Howard College	52 85
" " " Indian Missions	21 80
" " " Coliseum Place Church, N. O.	7 40
" " " Minutes	40 35
" " " Ministerial Education, by G. W. Green	2 50
" " " Rev. J. W. P. Brown	13 05
Public Collection on Sabbath	23 85
Total	$455 78

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. BRUNSON, Chairman.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Membership Last Reported	Increase Since Baptized	Increase Rec'd by Letter	Increase Restored	Decrease Since dis'by Letter	Decrease Excluded	Decrease Dead	Total Membership	S. Sch'ols Teachers	S. Sch'ols Scholars	Sunday School Contributions	Amt paid Pastor—(Salary)	CONTRIBUTIONS. Ministers	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Indian Missions	S. B. Theo. Seminary	Howard College	Coliseum Place Church, N O	Local Missionary Work	Aged and Infirm Ministers	Total Contributions
Beulah	24	4	1	...	...	...	1	32	4	42	8 00	105	3 00	7 50	.....	9 00	.....	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	127 00
Center	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Christian Valley	39	7	...	...	2	...	1	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	3 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 00
Clinton	40	3	...	...	1	2	1	43	.....	30	.....	.....	2 25	6 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 75
Concord	89	12	7	...	1	...	1	101	4	60	.....	.....	2 50	5 00	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 50
Cuba	76	15	6	...	...	...	...	97	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 35	12 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	26 35
Demopolis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eutaw	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fellowship	39	...	...	...	...	...	1	37	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00	1 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 50
Friendship	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gainesville	76	...	...	...	13	1	...	64	5	40	.....	.....	.....	50 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 00	.....	.....	.....	64 00
Hickory Hill	44	1	...	1	8	...	...	37	.....	24	.....	.....	1 50	.....	.....	6 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 50
Hopewell, Sumter Co	47	2	...	...	8	...	1	43	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 00
Hopewell, Choctaw Co	60	5	...	...	1	...	2	63	.....	20	.....	.....	2 00	.....	9 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 00
Livingston	35	...	...	...	1	...	1	35	.....	50	10 00	.....	3 00	15 00	5 25	6 00	.....	28 71	8 00	.....	.....	15 00	80 96
Mt. Hermon	54	...	...	...	8	1	1	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	.....	.....	.....	16 80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18 30
Mt. Moriah	72	...	...	...	9	3	2	59	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 50
Mt. Sterling	28	...	...	...	2	...	1	26	.....	.....	.....	100	1 50	5 00	5 00	.....	.....	.....	5 50	.....	.....	.....	117 00
New Prospect	25	2	1	...	...	...	...	29	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	9 00	.....	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 00
Rehoboth	73	...	...	...	1	1	...	71	.....	25	3 50	.....	3 50	2 40	16 40	3 45	.....	.....	6 50	.....	.....	.....	32 25
Siloam	94	...	1	...	5	...	...	103	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00	9 60	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	15 10
Stonewall	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sumterville	40	6	...	...	15	...	...	30	.....	40	38 22	.....	2 00	26 15	8 60	15 62	.....	1 50	8 35	7 40	.....	.....	69 62
York	8	2	8	...	...	...	1	15	.....	.....	.....	75	1 50	.....	.....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6 50
Zion	106	5	1	...	...	1	1	109	.....	80	12 40	.....	3 00	6 50	.....	4 00	.....	.....	8 00	.....	.....	.....	21 50
Total	1104	64	25	1	74	8	15	1128	13	411	72 12	280	43 10	169 65	49 25	51 07	21 80	30 21	55 35	7 40	12	15 00	660 83

CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS, PREACHING.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	PASTOR'S POST OFFICE.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.	PREACHING.
Beulah	Sumter	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	W. P. Chambers	Kinterbish	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.
Center	Sumter			T. F. Seale	Gaston	
Christian Valley	Sumter	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	W. R. Rushing	Coatopa	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Clinton	Greene	J. E. White	Clinton	S. W. McAliley	Clinton	3rd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Concord	Choctaw	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	J. R. Phillips	Yantley Creek	3rd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Cuba	Sumter	J. K. Ryan	Yantley Creek	B. F. Watson	Cuba Station	3rd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Demopolis	Marengo					
Eutaw	Greene					
Fellowship	Marengo	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	W. M. Simmons	Demopolis	3rd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Friendship	Greene	J. E. White	Clinton			
Gainesville	Sumter	N. B. Williams	Livingston			
Hickory Hill	Sumter	W. F. Pond	Kinterbish	J. P. Woolf	Bevill's Store	1st Sabbath and Saturday before.
Hopewell (Sumter Co.)	Sumter	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	C. S. Coats	Belmont	1st Sabbath and Saturday before.
Hopewell (Choctaw Co.)	Choctaw	J. D. Cook	Pushmataha	C. J. Williams	Mt. Sterling	3rd Sabbath.
Livingston	Sumter	N. B. Williams	Livingston	P. B. Brown	Livingston	
Mt. Hermon	Sumter	C. C. Bloodworth	York Station	J. M. Swain	York Station	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Mt. Moriah	Sumter	C. C. Bloodworth	York Station	A. J. McElroy	Cuba Station	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.
Mt. Sterling	Choctaw	J. D. Cook	Pushmataha	J. B. Marshall	Mt. Sterling	1st Sabbath.
New Prospect	Sumter	A. R. Scarborough	Livingston	Z. M. Hoit	Livingston	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.
Rehoboth	Choctaw	J. D. Cook	Pushmataha	J. W. Cook	Pushmataha	2nd and 4th Sabbath.
Sloan	Sumter	C. C. Vaughan	Cuba Station	S. D. Green	York Station	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.
Stonewall	Sumter					
Sumterville	Sumter	N. B. Williams	Livingston	O. C. Thomas	Sumterville	
York	Sumter	C. C. Bloodworth	York Station	C. P. Mills	York Station	3rd Sabbath.
Zion	Sumter	J. K. Ryan	Yantley Creek	T. M. Brunson	Ross'r.	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.